44TH STREET NEIGHBORS TO THE FIELD SCHOOL

January 15, 2003

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Mr. Geoffrey Griffis
Chairperson
District of Columbia Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, N.W., Room 210
Washington, DC 20001

In re: BZA Order No. 16559-B

Dear Mr. Griffis:

44th Street residents who live immediately to the east of the Field School are filing this letter in response to the Field School's request for a proposed one-month extension of BZA Order No. 16559-B. Pursuant to this letter, we are requesting certain additional conditions be added to any extension order.

Certain adverse conditions have been ongoing at the Field School for a substantial period of time and the lack of timely actions by the Field School has resulted in this request. We are, in particular, requesting that the BZA Order end two particularly objectionable matters. Officials of the school have failed to cure either of these adverse conditions in a reasonable period of time notwithstanding numerous meetings, letters and phone calls.

The first objectionable condition relates to noise emanating from the "chiller" unit for the school gymnasium. The noise from this unit was first noticeable on or about May 31, 2002, and was immediately called to the school's attention. Although several months elapsed before the school admitted the existence of a problem, we have been promised action on this issue for a number of months without any result. To describe the noise as offensive is putting it mildly. The noise from the chiller can be heard inside closed homes and as far away as several blocks. Representatives of the Field School have belatedly admitted that the noise level is above Code. Due to the length of time the 44th Street neighborhood has had to endure the illegal chiller noise, the residents of the 44th Street neighborhood request the BZA to order the unit to be shut down until such time that the noise from the unit is within acceptable levels. The neighbors believe that the price paid by the children at the Field School, who will have to play in an un-airconditioned gym for, generally, 1 hour per day is small--especially in comparison to the noise endured by the residents for 24 hours a day over more than 7 months.

BZA
Case No. 16559-B
Exhibit No. 513

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16559
EXHIBIT NO.513

The second objectionable condition relates the parking of school buses behind the gymnasium. Due to the change made to the terrain by the Field School, the bright blue school buses are parked on a parking lot that lies almost 6 feet above the normal lay of the land. Taking into account the height of the buses, the school's buses are parked well above the normal fence levels of neighboring properties, and within a matter of only 5 to 10 feet from the back of neighborhood properties. The Field School has made only insignificant efforts to resolve this problem and have blamed the location of the buses on the BZA. The 44th Street neighborhood hereby requests the BZA to order the parking of the Field School buses in the main parking lot or in front of the school until such time that the Field School appropriately remedies the objectionable conditions caused by the current location of the buses.

Sincerely,

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BZA Application No. 16559-B

I certify and attest that on January 15, 2003, a copy of the letter of that date in this matter was mailed, first class, postage prepaid, to each party and public agency who is listed below. In addition, a facsimile copy of the letter was transmitted to the first party listed below on the same date.

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